

RAPID SELF-ERROR-CHECK CIRCUIT OF A COMPUTER POWER SUPPLY

Background of the Invention

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to power supplies, and particularly to a rapid self-error-check circuit of a computer power supply.

10 2. Description of related art:

15 A general computer mainframe is installed with a power supply for supplying a steady and reliable voltage to the mainframe. However, current power supplies are often not so reliable. When a computer is shutdown or can not start up, the user often takes much time to find the defects necessary to be repaired. Moreover, many users take the computer for repair while just power supply has faults, but other components are operational.

20 If a computer can not be operated normally, a power supply is a first one to be detected. However, the fault of the power supply can not be detected from outer appearance. For example, if a plug is inserted into a receptacle while the fan of the power supply is usable, then the user determines that the power supply has no fault. This is incorrect. Moreover, if a computer can
25 not be restarted, the user may consider that the power supply has fault. This is also an error concept, since there are many reasons

which induce that a computer can not be restarted, for example, over voltage or over current of other components, protection mode of a power supply induced by an over voltage and over current protecting device.

5 Whether a power supply can be operated normally can not be determined from the operation of a fan of a power supply. It is also possible that the power supply has no fault, while the fan can not be operated. Therefore, to decide whether a power supply is normal is very important.

10 The fault of a power supply can be classified as one of exterior faults and interior faults. The former one can be detected from outer side without using any detector, for example by checking whether the output wire or terminal is loose or burned. The way for determining the interior fault is at first to detach a
15 power supply from a computer mainframe. Then, proprietary devices, such as electronic loader, scope, etc., are used to measure all output voltage, current and signals. If they are in normal condition, the fault of the power supply can be not considered.

20 Some conditions which can not be detected by instruments are not within the scope of the present invention. However, these conditions have a little possibility of occurrence.

Summary of the invention

25 Accordingly, the primary object of the present invention is to provide a rapid self-error-check circuit of a computer power supply, which may detect the fault of a power supply rapidly and then display the result on a LED displaying light so that the user

may determine the condition of the power supply.

To achieve the object, the present invention provides a rapid self-error-check circuit of a computer power supply, wherein a computer power supply is installed with a self-detecting device; an
5 LED displaying light and detecting button are exposed on the casing of the power supply; thereby, the normality of the power supply can be detected by pressing a detecting button and then the result is displayed through the colors of the LED displaying light.

The various objects and advantages of the present invention
10 will be more readily understood from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the appended drawing.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a front view of a power supply with a detecting
15 button and a display light of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a front view showing that the power supply of the present invention is installed to a transversal type computer mainframe.

Fig. 3 is a front view showing that the power supply of the
20 present invention is installed to an upright type computer mainframe.

Fig. 4 shows the working principle of the power supply operation detecting circuit of the present invention.

Fig. 5 showing the working principle of the standby power
25 source detecting circuit of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Fig. 1, the present invention is placed in a power supply with a self-error-check circuit. The power supply 1 is installed behind the computer mainframe 2. An LED displaying light 11 and a detecting button 12 are installed on the housing at an exposed part. Therefore, the user is only necessary to press the button 12, a circuit is used to detect the condition of the power supply 1 and then the result will be displayed by the color variation of the LED displaying light 11.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the computer power supply with self-detecting device of the present invention is illustrated. The computer power supply with self-detecting device is installed on a transversal or upright type computer mainframe 2. The LED displaying light 11 and detecting button 12 are exposed out. Thereby, the user of the computer may see the display condition of the LED displaying light 11 and thus the user may touch the detecting button 12 by a finger.

The detecting circuit of the computer power supply 1 includes a power supply operation detecting circuit as illustrated in Fig. 4 and a standby power source detecting circuit as illustrated in Fig. 5. In the power supply detecting circuit, a detecting switch SW is used to control the AC current to enter into the power supply 1. After power is rectified by a rectifier 13 and then enters into the power system 14 for reducing the voltage, a voltage signal is sent to a detector 15. An auxiliary power source or standby power source 16 is installed between the rectifier 13 and the power system 14. The detector 15 of the power system 14 is used to detect the power condition of the power system 14 and to detect the output voltage. The detecting result is displayed by the LED

displaying light 11.

In above circuit, the LED displaying light 11 includes a standby power source light VSB and a power output light PG. The VSB is a green light and PG is a red light. The combination
5 of the two is indicated by a yellow light. The color of the indicator is changed according to the standby power source and the output voltage of the power source or the variation of the specific signal, which includes the following conditions. .

1. In standby condition, a green light of the LED displaying light
10 11 lights up.
2. If the indicator extinguishes, it represents that the power supply is abnormal, which includes the following condition:
 - (1) The power supply circuit of the standby power source has faults
 - 15 (2) Overload
3. If a yellow indicator lights up, then the user can not detect by himself, namely:
 - (1) Press a detecting button to conduct a detecting switch, yellow light lights up and the green light extinguishes. The
20 power source is normal.
 - (2) Press a detecting button, the green lights still lights up. It represent that the power source is abnormal.

Referring to Fig. 5, the present invention is used to detect a
25 standby power source. In the power supply detecting circuit, a detecting switch SW is used to control the AC current which flows into the power supply 1. The current is rectified by the rectifier 13 and then enters into the auxiliary power source or standby

power source 16. A voltage signal is outputted to the detector 15. The detector 15 of the auxiliary power source or standby power source 16 may detect the power condition of the auxiliary power source or standby power source 16 directly, and meanwhile
5 may detect the voltage output. The result is displayed on the LED displaying light 11. Only auxiliary power source or standby power source 16 is detected, and thus only green light lights up. The color of the light can be changed according to the output voltage of the auxiliary power source or standby power source or
10 specific signals. The following conditions are included.

1. As a green light lights up, it represents that the auxiliary power source or standby power source is normal
2. As the light is extinguished, it represents no auxiliary power source or standby power source, including the following
15 condition:

- (a) No AC input.
- (b) No fault in power wire.
- (c) When output load is larger than 130% – 160%, the detector
inform to interrupt power supply (improper load can be
20 removed, and the power is restored).

Above mentioned detector 15, for example power supply used in ATX computer, a standby power supply (VSB) or a PG signal of a power supply can be used as a detecting point. The present
25 invention has a function of intelligent function. When the output load is larger than the setting point for load protection and the power is interrupted for power protection. The load is removed and a detecting button is pressed. If the power source is normal,

indicator 11 changed from green light to yellow light. If the detecting button 12 is pressed, while the green light still lights up, then it is determined that the power supply has faults.

The rapid self-error-check circuit of a computer power supply
5 of the present invention has an LED displaying light 11 and a
detecting button 12. The user only needs to press the detecting
button 12, and then the power supply 1 will detect the condition of
the power supply. Then the LED displaying light 11 will display
the condition by different colors. Thereby, the user may detect
10 whether the power supply 1 is in normal.

The present invention is thus described, it will be obvious that
the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to
be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the present
invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one
15 skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of
the following claims.